



PATENT

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Applicant : James J. Leftwich
Application No. : 09/060,343
Filed : April 14, 1998
Title : MULTIPLE DATABASE, USER-CHOICE-COMPILED PROGRAM AND EVENT GUIDE
Grp./Div. : 2611
Examiner : N. Vu
Docket No. : 32563/WWM/S787

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RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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September 19, 2001

Commissioner:

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action dated May 23, 2001, claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-21, and 24-31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,671,411 to Watts et al. ("Watts"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-21, and 24-31 are currently pending in the application. No new matter is presented. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration a timely indication of allowance.

Watts directed to a search engine for searching a database of television program schedule information that incorporates a method for visually creating search queries on a display screen (see col. 1, ln. 59-col. 2, ln. 8). Logical operators, such as AND, OR, NOT, etc., associated with search criteria so that users may perform database searches without extensive knowledge of databases. Specific criteria disclosed in Watts include stations, days of the week, names, time of day, and special criteria.

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The present invention is directed to a method of and a system for managing program listings which comprise utilizing filters in the form of a list of programs or event entries to select program listings for display. Additionally, the present invention provides an electronic program guide (EPG) display having the selected program listings. The lists of programs or events may be provided via a service provider or by a third party, as described on page 6, lines 1 to 17, of the specification. For example, lists of programs and events include "The Family-Friendly subscription service" and "Bob's Smith's Cult Film Access Listing." As recited in the claims, these lists are lists of specific programs, as opposed to database search criteria.

For a rejection based on anticipation to be proper, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). In applying Watts to claim 1, the Examiner states that Watts discloses first and second filters, each filter including "a list of criteria." However, as stated above, all of the claims are limited to filters comprising a "list of program/event entries." These are not "criteria" as disclosed in Watts. Applicant respectfully submits that Watts does not disclose every element as set forth in the claims as amended in the preliminary amendment submitted March 2, 2001.

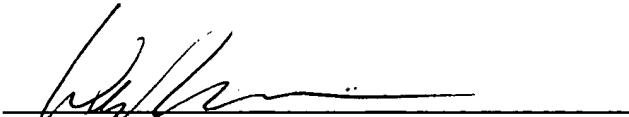
The Examiner cites col. 3, lns 28-40 and col. 4, lns. 21-45 for teaching first and second filters including a list of criteria. It is respectfully submitted that neither the cited sections nor the remainder of the reference disclose utilizing the filters as claimed by the Applicant. The references sections cited by the Examiner describe a list of possible fields that may be searched in a database table. In the first list of search criteria, a user may search the fields of "stations, days of the week, names, time of the day, and special criteria." The cited search criteria are not filters comprising lists of program/event entries as claimed by the Applicant.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 20, as well as all claims depending therefrom, are allowable over Watts. Withdrawal of the rejection over Watts is respectfully requested.

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Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-21, and 24-31 are in condition for allowance, and a timely indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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